



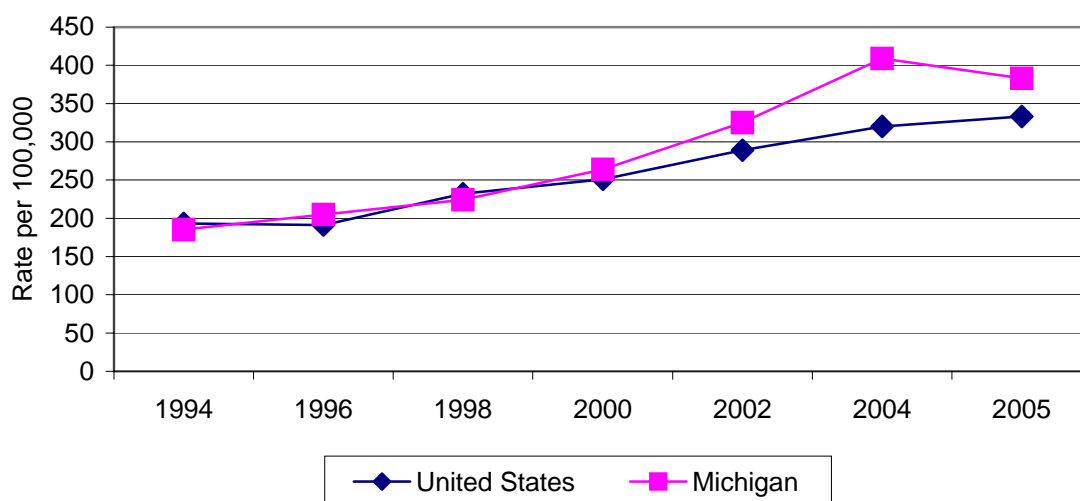
Topic: Sexually Transmitted Disease

34. Chlamydia

Chlamydia is a bacterial infection predominately spread through sexual contact. It is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States, responsible for an estimated one million cases each year.

How are we doing?

**Chlamydia Rates in Michigan and the United States
1994-2005**



The rates of chlamydia increased since Michigan began reporting cases in 1992. This was due to several factors, including improved reporting, increased levels of testing, and advances in testing technology. In 2005, there were 38,729 reported cases of chlamydia, a six percent decrease from 2004. In 2006, 36,746 cases were reported, a five percent decrease from 2005. This represents a two-year decline in number of cases. Michigan has continued efforts to screen the populations at highest risk. Additionally, improved data systems have resulted in more accurate counting of cases. Michigan's goal is to continue to see a decrease in the number of reported chlamydia infections by maintaining current screening and surveillance practices.

Based on data from the Michigan Infertility Prevention Project (IPP), over 90% of reported chlamydia cases are treated.

How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

The rate of chlamydia in Michigan of 409 per 100,000 population in 2004 was significantly higher than the national rate of 320 per 100,000; however, the increased rate is likely due to a surveillance data system change. The rate of chlamydia in Michigan was 382 per 100,000 population in 2005, significantly higher than the national rate of 333 per 100,000. Michigan ranks tenth among all states for its rate of chlamydia.



How are different populations affected?

The highest rates of chlamydia are found among the 15-19 and 20-24 year old age cohorts. These two groups combined accounted for 72% of the 2005 morbidity. The rates are highest among women in this age range, especially Black women. The rate among Blacks is 8.5 times that of Whites. The rate among Black women is seven times higher than for White women. Given that sexual activity does not vary by race, this rate is evidence that once a pathogen is in a community or social network, the likelihood of acquiring that infection increases significantly, thus resulting in higher transmission rates.

The overall rate among women is 3.4 times higher than in men, largely due to targeted screening towards females. Males are more often symptomatic and treated presumptively (without testing), based on symptoms. Additionally, young females are at increased risk for infection because of an immature cervix which has a thin layer of epithelium that provides less protection from bacteria than a mature cervix.

The highest rates of chlamydia, in 2005, were in the City of Detroit, and in Genesee, Muskegon, Ingham, and Saginaw Counties.

What is the Department of Community Health doing to improve this indicator?

Because chlamydia causes costly complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), the Department is working to decrease the prevalence of chlamydia and its health consequences. The MDCH participates in the National Infertility Prevention Project (IPP) which targets adolescents and young adults (15-24 year olds). Adolescents and young adults are a population on which Michigan places special emphasis; IPP is the core of these efforts. The IPP provides chlamydia screening in STD and Family Planning clinics, as well as school-based clinics, juvenile detention centers, and alternative adolescent sites, such as runaway shelters and alternative schools.